

judice which we must frankly admit), Messrs. Vizetelly offer impressions of the original "coppers," with an English text, for the modest outlay of one guinea. They are skilfully printed, and, if somewhat worn, should, as regards composition and design, be as useful to the student as the earlier issues. On other grounds they cannot, of course, compete with the earlier issues. Mr. Keene's version of Dorat's text is fluent. But the value of the text is so secondary that translation was needless, especially as it is scarcely possible to translate the *nuances* of French erotic verse into English without somewhere suggesting the nice distinction drawn by Victor Hugo between "*le nu*" and "*le déshabillé*."

QUESTIONS ON ENGLISH CHURCH HISTORY.*

AS the author of this book tells us that his pupils—probably candidates for Holy Orders—"using [it] with the *Students' English Church History* have found it serviceable," it comes before us with a strong recommendation, and forasmuch as it is evidently the work of a sound Churchman, it deserves and receives our good wishes. At the same time, we are bound to say that the questions it contains are such as any intelligent teacher could frame without the slightest trouble, and that the book has been compiled without any apparent system. A good many questions have what are described as "Answer-hints," which in most cases do not seem to differ from answers, appended to them; others are left to the learner's unaided efforts. It is not easy to see why a student who can find an answer to "Q. 1099. Give a short account of Hoadley," needs an "Answer-hint" to "Q. 1100. Give an account of John Toland, the Deist, and his works," especially as the hint merely consists of a statement of two or three facts. Some of the questions are—to use an Oxford phrase—Pass questions; others, such as might be set in an Honours paper, and a few, as, for example, Q. 637, are awkwardly expressed. Here and there some emendation is needed in matter. Q. 418 should not have been inserted; Sanders is no authority, and the foul scandal concerning Anne Boleyn's birth, about which the student is asked and enlightened, is certainly untrue; the true and important story about Henry VIII. and Mary Boleyn is left unnoticed. There is a muddle in the answer supplied to Q. 904; the emigrants from Delft in 1620—such of them as persevered—were included in the passengers who finally sailed in the *Mayflower*, and Robinson was prevented from joining the colonists. We are amazed at the guarded answer which tells us that Robert Grosseteste was, "on the whole, a man of high character." What on earth can the author have to say against the character of the "great clerk"? His Answer-hint seems to show that he is ignorant of the exact position which the Bishop took up, both as regards the institution of aliens to English benefices and the attempt to bring the common law into conformity with the canon law. The answer to Q. 227 is misleading, if not actually erroneous; that to Q. 227* ridiculously insufficient; and the charter granted by John to the Church in 1214 should not have been forgotten under Q. 231. Still, in spite of some drawbacks, the questions, as a whole, afford a satisfactory means of testing a student's knowledge of English Church history, and the answers contain much useful information and many suggestive remarks.

THE HAPPY PRINCE, AND OTHER TALES.†

ONE of the chief functions of the true fairy story is to excite sympathy. Whether they are princes, peasants, or inanimate objects (Was the immortal tin soldier an inanimate object?), the joys and sorrows of the heroes and heroines of fairyland will always be real to those persons, whatever their age may be, who love the fairy story, and regard it as the most delightful form of romance. Mr. Oscar Wilde, no doubt for excellent reasons, has chosen to present his fables in the form of fairy tales to a public which, though it should count among its numbers most persons who can appreciate delicate humour and an artistic literary manner, will assuredly not be composed of children. No child will sympathize at all with Mr. Wilde's *Happy Prince* when he is melted down by order of the Mayor and Corporation in obedience to the dictum of the art professor at the University that, since "he is no longer beautiful, he is no longer useful." Children do not care for satire, and the dominant spirit of these stories is satire—a bitter satire differing widely from that of Hans Andersen, whom Mr. Wilde's literary manner so constantly recalls to us. This quality of bitterness, however, does not repel the reader (except in the story of the "Devoted Friend," which is at once the cleverest and least agreeable in the volume), inasmuch as Mr. Wilde always contrives to leave us at the end of every tale with a very pleasant sensation of the humorous. Perhaps the best example of Mr. Wilde's method is to be found in "The Nightingale and the Rose." Here the nightingale has sacrificed its life in order to obtain a red rose for the student. The student repairs with

the nightingale's gift to the daughter of the Professor, in order to present the rose to her:—

But the girl frowned.

"I am afraid it will not go with my dress," she answered; "and besides, the Chamberlain's nephew has sent me some real jewels, and everybody knows that jewels cost far more than flowers."

Then the student, having thrown away the rose, returns to a great dusty book, reflecting:—

"What a silly thing Love is. It is not half as useful as Logic, for it does not prove anything, and it is always telling one of things that are not going to happen. . . . In fact, it is quite unpractical, and, as in this age to be practical is everything, I shall go back to Philosophy and study Metaphysics."

It may be remarked in connexion with this story that, in order to get the desired effect at the conclusion, Mr. Wilde has gone dangerously near the region of sham sentiment. It is the only place in the book where his artistic sense has stumbled a little along with his natural history. The volume is well got up, without any of those disfiguring eccentricities, either of type or binding, which are too commonly used in publications of this kind; possibly a prettier page might have been produced if a slightly smaller type and blacker ink had been employed. The illustrations are by Mr. Walter Crane and Mr. Jacob Hood; the latter has been the more successful of the two.

MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY.*

IF ever there was a man of whom it might be said with truth that he needed no biography for his works speak for him, Captain Maury was that man. Other naval officers have done far more in fighting or exploration. Other men of science have shown greater imagination and originality. But there can never have been any man whose scientific work bore more immediate practical fruit. It is not too much to say that every over-sea voyage and most coasting voyages made all over the world are to-day shorter and safer than they would have been without Maury's work. The *Physical Geography of the Sea, and its Meteorology*, gave scientific completeness to the old empirical practical seamanship. Much had been done before him, for, after all, no explorer, discoverer, or man of science is entirely without precursors. There was a great advance in navigation even between Anson's time and the beginning of the century. Cook had known the value of accurate instruments; and even as far back as the sixteenth century men knew what was meant by great circle sailing. Still the progress had been slow. As a rule, men were content with just as much knowledge as would do. Voyages were longer than they need have been, and the indifference of seamen to exact navigation is shown by the fact that, in the time of the great war, there were, it is said, only sixteen chronometers in possession of the Admiralty. In the merchant service, except in the East India Company's ships, there was little or no scientific navigation, though of practical seamanship there was no lack. Of the men who put a stop to this rule-of-thumb navigation and blind following of old routes, the most distinguished was Maury. To have improved the course of every ship upon the sea was a great thing, and the man who did it is not in danger of being forgotten.

Mrs. Corbin's Life of her father is also hardly the biography which should have been written of Maury. It is sufficiently pleasant reading, and in every way excellent in tone. It tells all there is to tell of his active life; but it is weakest precisely where it had need to be strong. We cannot blame a lady for not dwelling on the scientific work; but, after all, that is what we should like to hear about. Mrs. Corbin does, indeed, mention her father's books, and gives their names and dates of publication, and describes their reception by the world. But we miss those definitions of the work; those explanations of mental processes which, after all, make up the life of the man of science. On the active side Maury's life was not full or remarkable. As a midshipman in the American navy he was already studious and thoughtful. He passed for lieutenant twenty-seventh in a list of forty, and Mrs. Corbin is doubtless right in accounting for his modest position by saying that the examination was mainly in practical seamanship, for which Maury seems to have had no particular taste, though he never failed in his duty. His natural bent towards study was confirmed by accident. His leg was broken by a fall from a stage-coach, and then he had the evil fortune to fall into the hands of an incompetent surgeon, who set the leg so badly that it had to be broken again, and re-set—a horrible operation in the days when anaesthetics as yet were not. General Sir Charles Napier had a similar experience, but he at least recovered the use of the limb. Maury was completely lamed for a time, and seems to have limped all his life. This misfortune would have stopped his active service, but the U. S. Navy Department, with creditable intelligence, employed him in the Observatory, and in hydrographical work. Once only his labours were interrupted. A Retirement Committee was appointed in 1855 to clear the block in the list of lieutenants, and this body was so ill advised as to propose to shelve the most distinguished officer in the U.S.

* *Twelve Hundred Questions on the History of the Church of England; with some Answer-hints, and with Tabular Annals, &c.* By a Lecturer. London: Rivingtons. 1888.

† *The Happy Prince, and other Tales.* By Oscar Wilde. Illustrated by Walter Crane and Jacob Hood. London: David Nutt. 1888.

* *A Life of Matthew Fontaine Maury, U.S.N., and C.S.N.* Compiled by his Daughter, D. F. M. Corbin. London: Sampson Low & Co. 1888.